



World Health
Organization

Solomon Islands

GENERAL INFORMATION

Solomon Islands is a country with an approximate area of 28 thousand square kilometers (UNO, 2008). The population is 535,699 and the sex ratio (men per hundred women) is 107 (UNO, 2009). The proportion of the population under the age of 18 years is 44% and the proportion above age 60 is 3% (UNO, 2009). The literacy rate is 90% for men and 80% for women (UN Statistics, 2008). The life expectancy at birth is 65 years for males and 68 years for females (UNO, 2005-2010). The healthy life expectancy at birth is 59 years for males and 68 years for females (UNPD, 2010). The country is in the low income group (based on 2010 World Bank criteria). The total expenditure on health as a percentage of gross domestic product is 5.45% and the per capita government expenditure on health (PPP int. \$) is \$91.0 (WHO, 2006). Suicide rate information is not available. In the Solomon Islands, neuropsychiatric disorders are estimated to contribute to 12.6% of the global burden of disease (WHO, 2008).

GOVERNANCE

An officially approved mental health policy does not exist and mental health is not specifically mentioned in the general health policy.

A mental health plan does not exist.

Dedicated mental health legislation exists and was initiated or most recently revised in 1978. Legal provisions concerning mental health are not covered in other laws (e.g., welfare, disability, general health legislation etc.).

Note: A National Mental Health Policy which aims to promote, improve and maintain the mental health of the people of the Solomon Islands has been drafted (as of 2009) but requires finalization and approval. Re-drafting the Mental Health Act into new laws incorporating concepts of community treatment, rehabilitation and rights of mentally disordered persons is also underway. Implementation of the Human Resources Training Plan is also planned.

FINANCING

Mental health expenditures by the government health department/ministry are approximately 1.3% of the total health budget. Mental hospital expenditures by the government health department/ministry are not available.

Note: Although exact values are not available, about 4.7% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the Solomon Islands is spent on health.

The majority of finances allocated for mental health are used in acute care settings in the National Psychiatric Unit and the acute care ward in the national Referral Hospital. Few resources are left for primary care in the communities in the provinces.

MENTAL HEALTH CARE DELIVERY

Primary Care

The department of health does not authorize primary health care nurses to prescribe and to continue prescription of psychotherapeutic medicines. Official policy does not permit primary health care nurses to independently diagnose and treat mental disorders within the primary care system.

The majority of primary health care doctors and nurses have not received official in-service training on mental health within the last five years. Officially approved manuals on the management and treatment of mental disorders are not available in the majority of primary health care clinics. Official referral procedures for referring persons from primary care to secondary/tertiary care exist as do referral procedures from tertiary/secondary to primary care.

Mental Health Services

Availability of mental health facilities

	Total number of facilities/beds	Rate per 100,000 population	Number of facilities/beds reserved for children and adolescents only	Rate per 100,000 population
Mental health outpatient facilities	UN	UN	UN	UN
Day treatment facilities	0	0.00	NA	NA
Psychiatric beds in general hospitals	4	0.75	UN	UN
Community residential facilities	0	0.00	NA	NA
Beds/places in community residential facilities	0	0.00	NA	NA
Mental hospitals	1	0.19	UN	UN
Beds in mental hospitals	24	4.48	UN	UN

Access to care

	Rates per 100,000 population)	Females (%)	Under age 18 (%)
Persons treated in mental health outpatient facilities	225.69	UN	UN
Persons treated in mental health day treatment facilities	NA	NA	NA
Admissions to psychiatric beds in general hospitals	13.44	81%	UN
Persons staying in community residential facilities at the end of the year	NA	NA	NA
Admissions to mental hospitals	20.16	68%	UN

Data collected in 2011

UN = information unavailable, NA = item not applicable

Long term care in mental hospitals (% of persons staying):

Less than 1 year	UN
More than 1 and less than 5 years	UN
More than 5 years	UN

HUMAN RESOURCES

Workforce and training

	Health professionals working in the mental health sector Rate per 100,000	Training of health professions in educational institutions Rate per 100,000
Psychiatrists	0.19	UN
Medical doctors, not specialized in psychiatry	0.00	UN
Nurses	1.12	UN
Psychologists	0.00	UN
Social workers	0.00	UN
Occupational therapists	0.00	UN
Other health workers	0.00	NA

Informal human resources (Family and User Associations)

	User	Family
Present in the country?	UN	UN
Number of members	UN	UN
Participation in the formulation/implementation of policy/plan/legislation?	UN	UN

Note: A majority of the mental health human resources (e.g. psychiatric nurses, the psychiatrist) are based in the central city of Honiara.

MEDICINES

Expenditures for medicines for mental and behavioral disorders at country level

Type of Medicines	Expenditures at country level per year and per 100,000 population (in USD)
All the psychotherapeutic medicines ¹	UN
Medicines used for bipolar disorders ²	UN
Medicines for psychotic disorders ³	UN
Medicines used for general anxiety ⁴	UN
Medicines used for mood disorders ⁵	UN

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

	Data on number of people/ activities are collected and reported	Data on age and gender are collected and reported	Data on patient's diagnosis are collected and reported
Persons with mental disorders treated in primary health care	No	No	No
Interventions (psychopharmacological and psychosocial) delivered in primary health care for people with mental disorders	No	No	No
Persons treated in mental health outpatient facilities	No	No	No
Contacts in mental health outpatient facilities	No	No	No
Persons treated in mental health day treatment facilities	NA	NA	NA
Admissions in general hospitals with psychiatric beds	No	No	No
Admissions in mental hospitals	No	No	No
Days spent in mental hospitals	No	No	No
Admissions in community residential facilities	NA	NA	NA

¹ N03AG01, N05A, N05B, N05C, N06A

² N03AG01, N05A, N05B, N05C, N06A

³ N05A (excluding N05AN)

⁴ N05B & N05C

⁵ N06A

Data collected in 2011

UN = information unavailable, NA = item not applicable